Scott. II.27—45,000—9-11-34.

Development (1935) Department.

Hc. SERIES.

G.O. No. 157

DATED the 30th October 1935.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forests - Grievances - South Kanara
Division - Address to His Excellency
the Governor by the Deputation
Board - Papers - Record.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Copy of D.O.No.1-30/35 dated the 10th September 1935 from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary to Government, Local Self Government Dept.

Dear Russell,

I am sending herewith four copies each of the addresses to be presented by the Mangalore Municipal Council and the South Canara District Board in October next, together with the Collector's notes. Would you kindly arrange to let me have short notes on the points raised and on the General Administration of the Municipal Council and the District Board, so as to reach me not later than the 30th instant.

Yours etc.

Dev. 4170-I
209-B

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
20 SEP 1935
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

This may be sent to the Development Dept. with reference to para graph 4 of the letter. (The Collector's notes are on pages 7 to 8.)

L. & S. 393A-1 A
19-9-35

1 (a)

To HIS EXCELLENCY

THE LORD ERSKINE, G.C.I.E.,

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the members of the District Board of South Kanara, beg to offer on behalf of ourselves and the people of this District, a cordial welcome to Your Excellency and Lady Erskine, on this memorable occasion of your first official visit to this District.

2. To a casual visitor at this time of the year the outward appearance of this District may give an altogether misleading appearance of all being fairly well here. But the District is really poor with its peculiar difficulties of cultivation and heavy agricultural indebtedness. Continued depression for a number of years followed nevertheless by the recent enhancement of assessment and made still more insufferable by a fall in the price of rice and cocoanuts, the two staple commodities of the District, have impoverished the people almost beyond redemption.

3. Though the District gets over 120 inches of rain, the land cannot be considered fertile as owing to the ruggedness of its surface, its peculiar physical features and a narrow coast line, much of the torrential rain water flows down to the sea carrying with it rich manure. There are no minor irrigation works to conserve the rain water with the result that in the months of March, April and May, the land gets parched up, (the) scarcity of water is often experienced in several parts of the District and cattle go without

sufficient

fodder. This District has been unfortunate in not receiving any portion of the large grant given by Government for Minor Irrigation Works this year.

4. A large area of the District is covered by Reserved Forests on the outskirts of which hundreds of poverty-stricken villages nestle. These villages instead of deriving any substantial benefits from these forests, are becoming depopulated and cultivated lands laid waste on account of the depredations of wild animals. Forest grievances have been the subject of repeated representations to Government from many years past with little or no redress. We look to Your Excellency to get our forest grievances examined and grant the necessary redress to the suffering people.

5. Under the shadow of the Western Ghauts and in the outskirts of the plentiful forest reserves lie a large number of villages which are the perpetual abode of malaria. Though we are grateful to Government for the free distribution of quinine which has checked the scourge to some extent, yet we are constrained to submit that it is equally necessary for successfully combating the disease, to extend medical relief to the worst malaria-ridden centres of the District and to start Anti-malarial work. We regret our District though the worst sufferer has been left out of the Government's Scheme for Anti-malarial work out of the Government of India's grant for rural uplift. Unless the Government come to the rescue of the Board in its present extremely straitened condition, the Board will not be able to take up this vital problem of Public Health in the near future.

Rs 33,000 a year. We press our claims for an adequate enhancement of the compensation to the Board on this account so as to rehabilitate its attenuated resources.

8. At a time when the finances of the Board have broken down seriously Government have thrown upon the Board several new burdens without any additions to its income. The inevitable result is that the Budget has seriously been effected. The expenditure under the Elementary Education has grown up heavily by the introduction of new scales of pay for teachers under the mandatory directions of Government. In 1934 on the wake of the abolition of the Taluk Boards we had to pay a sum of Rs 40,525 to the Elementary Education Fund in addition to the statutory contribution of Rs 28,975. The Elementary Education Budget for 1935-36 closes with a deficit of Rs 36,340. Unless Your Excellency's Government devise ways and means to stabilise the finances of the Board, the performance of the normal functions of the Board would eventually be paralysed. We appeal to Your Excellency to save the Board from this catastrophy.

9. More money is needed for our roads. There are several roads which have to be classified as II Class roads on account of their increased importance calling for a larger outlay on their maintenance. The two Trunk Roads, the Mangalore-Mysore and the Mangalore-Mercara, which have to bear the brunt of motor traffic all through the year are not up to the trunk road standard. The condition

condition of the road from Mangalore Municipal limits to Jodumarga, a distance of 14 miles and 7 furlongs on which converges the entire traffic of several roads, is in bad condition. The Board has pressed for the sanction of special grants for this portion and though the Superintending Engineer and the Collector have strongly recommended it, Government have not yet complied with the request. The Superintending Engineer has urged the necessity to recrust several miles of the Trunk roads which have shown signs of abnormal deterioration. In this connection we regret to point out to Your Excellency that this district has not so far received any quota from the Road Development Fund though the contribution paid by the district to this fund is considerably large.

10. For the maintenance of Secondary schools, the Board incurs annually an expenditure of Rs 1,2[illegible],000 but the subsidy which the Government are pleased to pay us is only Rs 13,150 which was fixed 10 years ago. We find that this is comparatively much less than what is paid to other district boards which maintain the same or a lesser number of schools. A perusal of the Administration Reports of this Board would show the high standard of efficiency the Board Secondary schools have attained in their curricular and extra-curricular work. Some of the schools are in urgent need of better accomodation but the Board in the absence of building grants which the Government have declined to sanction, are unable to take up any building scheme.

11. We trust that by a favourable and sympathetic

sympathetic consideration of some of the many grievances brought to your special notice on this occasion, Your Excellency will leave a lasting memorial of your visit in the minds of the people of this remote district of the province.

12. In conclusion, we once again offer Your Excellency and Lady Erskine our hearty greetings and cordially wish you both all health and happiness.

We beg to subscribe ourselves,

Your Excellency's devoted and loyal Servants.

Members of the District Board,
South Kanara.

COLLECTOR'S NOTE ON THE DISTRICT BOARD ADDRESS.

Para 3:- The latest information about the grant for Minor Irrigation Works in this district is the reply made in the Assembly last week which shows that 5 lakhs have been allotted to District Boards Madras for Water-supply. It is presumed that the previous idea that the money would be allotted through the Board of Revenue for Irrigati works has been given up. It is true that the Board of Revenue did n accept any of my proposals for works to be carried out in villages. These proposals however did not deal with wells for drinking water.

Paras 4 and 5:- It is considered that the real cause for sub-gh villages being de-populated is Malaria and not the ravages of wild animals. The labour which might cultivate lands in these sub-ghaut villages prefers to go up over the ghauts and work in Coffee and tea estates in Coorg and Mysore.

Para 6:- A survey for the extension of the Railway line from Mangalore to Udipi was undertaken in 1928. There was much disputing as to the line which the Railway should take and 3 different routes were proposed. In view of the development of bus traffic it was thought in 1928 that the Railway line would not be a paying one.

Para 7:- The reasons why 75% of the proceeds of the Motor Vehicl Taxation go out of the district are as follows:-

(1) There were no tolls on roads where there were ferries. The ferry charges however remained although tolls have been abolished.

(2) The system of motor bus taxation in force in the district exempted motor buses from tolls.

For these two reasons the toll fees in the district were comparatively small and as the proceeds of the Taxation Act are distributed pro rata on the basis of the toll income of all districts, the amount which is allotted to South Kanara is very low compared with the effective motor traffic.

Para 8:- I have no means of checking the figures with regard to the Elementary Education Budget of the District Board.

Para 9:- It is a fact that the last 14 miles of the Trunk road carry the traffic of 3 main roads from Mysore and Coorg as well as all the road traffic from Kasaragod Taluk. In the last three years I have represented to Government repeatedly that this important stretch of th

road deserves assistance from the Road Development Fund; since the District gets so little advantage from the railways.

Para 10:- I cannot speak about the grant paid by Government for Secondary schools.

Development department.

Extract from an address to be presented to His Excellency the Governor by the South Kanara District Board.

p 2 supra

A large area of the district is covered by reserved forests on the outskirts of which hundreds of poverty-stricken people nestle. These villages instead of deriving any substantial benefits from these forests are becoming depopulated and cultivated lands lie waste on account of the depredations of wild animals. Forest grievances have been the subject of repeated representations to Government for many years past with little or no redress. We look to Your Excellency to get our forest grievances examined and grant the necessary redress to the suffering people.

Collector's remarks.

p.7 supra

It is considered that the real cause for sub-ghaut villages being de-populated is Malaria and not the ravages of wild animals. The labour which might cultivate lands in these sub-ghaut villages prefers to go up over the ghauts and work in Coffee and tea estates in Coorg and Mysore.

Office Note.

The complaints of the District Board are :-

(1) villages in the outskirts of reserved forests are becoming depopulated and cultivated lands are laid waste on account of depredations of wild animals ;

(2) forest grievances have not been redressed though representations were made to Government from a long time.

The following is a brief summary of the position.

2. The following concessions were given to the ryots of the South Kanara district in 1922 by the Chief Conservator of Forests :—

(1) permission to clear undergrowth in all reserves (except those near the coast) to a distance of half a mile from the limits of private holdings;

(2) in the reserves near the coast, the clearing of undergrowth to a distance of 200 yards from the limits of private holdings;

(3) clearing of undergrowth in all areas sown with hopea; and

(4) the free removal of—

(*a*) green manure leaves of unclassified species and dry leaves of all species; and

(*b*) dead fuel.

No charges of any kind were to be made.

The then Conservator also intimated to the ryots that the concessions of free removal of green manure leaf from unclassified trees in reserves as well as dead fuel would be allowed in case they came forward to form panchayats under 'Forest village system' giving an undertaking that they would protect the reserves from fire and illicit fellings and that if the panchayat successfully protected the reserves they would also be given a refund of half of the grazing fees collected.

3. Since then the concessions were abused by the ryots and the Forest officers recommended that they might be withdrawn. The following are extracts from some of the reports :—

> In his report on the working of the concessions for the year *1924–25*, the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, reported in August 1925 that the concessions were *abused* in Kursegudde, Herur, Darlegudde, Mudaregudde, Kasankatte and Chittur reserves of Coondapoor range and in Todar and Hosabettu reserves of Mangalore range and opined that the continuance of the concessions demanded serious consideration, especially in the reserves of Coondapoor range. The Conservator then reported that it seemed advisable to withdraw the concessions in regard to the removal of green leaf in respect of the six reserves and to issue a general warning that the concessions would be withdrawn if abused again.

Mr. Shetty complained to Government in May 1928 that the Conservator warned the ryots that the concessions would be withdrawn if they continued to abuse the privileges. On this the Chief Conservator reported as follows :—

> The privileges were granted on the condition that they should not be abused. There is nothing improper in the warning issued by the Conservator, but it is disquieting to observe that the people already regard the conditional concessions made in the light of rights and that they do not recognize that they should observe the conditions.

4. In March 1929 the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, stated : "The concessions have been abused to a very serious extent in Herur reserve and much abused in eleven other reserves, while two other reserves have suffered to some extent in patches. In removing green leaf a good percentage of the cutting has been at the expense of the reserved and classified species. Trees are hacked in such a way as to reduce them in size. Main stems sometimes up to 10 inches to 18 inches in girth are hacked off. The side branches and leaves are dropped and taken away as leaf manure and the large billets and sticks left to dry to be removed later as dry fuel."

> During the season in which leaf manure, etc., is in demand, hundreds of women and girls, men and boys, swarm over the reserves starting their operations, often before daybreak. Perpetration of actual abuses can be detected only fortuitously, for the forest vegetation conceals what is going on and affords ample hiding room for those who, when illegally employed, are approached by the forest guard. The forest guard is sometimes afraid to approach the offenders lest he should get a thrashing.

Para 3 P. 72 q (H)

Bat P 99 q (H)

Para 1(2) at PP 178-180 q (H)

5. In January 1930 the Chief Conservator reported: "All authorities are agreed that the grant of the concessions was ill-advised and short-sighted and although, by extending, from time to time, the period within which the concessions might be made use of and by repeated warnings, no effort has been spared to give the people every chance of showing that the concessions could be worked successfully, it has long been evident that they must be put an end to."

The Collector of South Kanara was of opinion that a clear case had been made out for the withdrawal of the concessions. The Government, however, on a consideration of the report issued orders in June 1930 that no change 'in the existing practice in respect of removal of green leaf manure from reserved forests is called for' and that 'the existing concessions in the matter of the clearance of the other classes of undergrowth should continue without modification'

Letter at PP 182-3 q (H)

x Opn. at P. 181, 7 P. 1159 q 10 & 12 (H)

6. In June 1930 the Chief Conservator reported that 'as the free concessions are being continued the prospects of forming panchayats are most remote' and that 'little enthusiasm is shown in forming panchayats due to the expectation of the continuance of the concessions' and asked for orders whether the concessions were to be permanent or whether they might be withdrawn if abused. In reply he was informed that the constitution of panchayats must be subject to the continuance of the concessions and he was asked to report cases of abuse of the concessions where they were sufficiently serious to require a reconsideration of the orders.

Ad B at P 5 q (W)

Letter at PP 4-6 q (W)

'C' at P. 5-6 q (W)

A at P. 6 q (W)

B at P. 11 q (W)

A at P. 11 q (W)

Para 2 P. 19 q (W)

Para 4 P 20 q (W)

Para 20 P 39 q (W)

7. In February 1931, the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, wrote: "The concessions were greatly abused in nine reserves. In removing leaf manure, a large percentage has been at the expense of the classified species. No appreciable improvement is noticeable in the conduct of villagers in making use of the concessions. They do not seem to make any distinction between unclassified, classified and reserve species. They collect whatever is handy for them and trees with lopped branches are a common sight in some of the reserves. It is not possible for a single guard to prevent such abuses. The drain of green leaf manure from all the reserves especially the coast reserved forests of Coondapur range is so great that a time will soon come when they cannot support this indefinite demand and the only solution open to the Forest Department is to close one reserve after another in gradual succession so that the ryots may not feel the pinch all on a sudden."

In February 1931 the District Forest Officer, South Mangalore, reported: "The grant of these concessions was a mistake. It is found difficult to stop the abuses. Lopping of branches of all species has become a hobby. Often it is found that small poles of valuable classified and reserved trees and branches of trees are cut and left in the forest and removed afterwards as dry fuel. The people do not go to reserve forest for the leaves of shrubs and less valuable species. This they get from the Kumaki land and unreserves. I have own suspicion that to some extent at least our forest guards connive at this."

In January 1932 the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, reported that "the ryots used the destructive methods of cutting of unclassified species and cutting of trees that are not unclassified for the collection of green leaf manure and fuel. No appreciable improvement is noticeable in the conduct of the villagers in making use of the concessions. It is not possible for a single guard to prevent abuses."

In March 1932 the Conservator of Forests stated: "The reserves most concerned with concessions are of value now for production of fuel and for all the other normal functions of a reserve forest. The concessions are not necessary generally. If concessions are to stop we can easily set to work and make special plans for those particular places that must be provided with leaf manure from reserves."

Para 6 P. 2 q (W)

Para 7 P. 2 q (W)

Bat P 3 q (W)

P. 4 3 q (W)

6 m at P. 4 5 q (W)

8. In August 1932 the Chief Conservator reported:—"The exercise of the concessions, whether abused or not, spells complete ruin to the forests, and although there would result some good from the removal of evergreen undergrowth in certain of the reserves in the south of the district, such an operation cannot be carried out in this way. There is no doubt that the orders should be reconsidered in respect of 23 reserves." He therefore recommended that the concessions in North Mangalore might for the present be withdrawn in the case of the six much abused reserves which lie farthest from the sea and that the Veeracamba reserve in South Mangalore be closed to the concessions. The Collector of South Kanara stated:—"The present is not an appropriate time for the withdrawal of the concessions. Beginning from next year, they may be withdrawn gradually by degrees, commencing with the six much abused reserves in the North Mangalore division and the Veeracamba reserve forest in South Mangalore division. There is bound to be a hue and cry when these concessions are withdrawn. I would suggest that the ryots who will be affected by the withdrawal be notified of the proposal at least four months ahead by beat of tom tom and publication in the gazette so that they may not make a grievance that the proposal took them by surprise." The Chief Conservator was informed that the Government did not propose to withdraw any of the concessions then and that the matter would be considered later on in the course of the year.

Para 2 pp. 47-48 (W)

9. In October 1932 the Chief Conservator reopened the question and stated :—" In framing prescriptions for the areas dedicated to timber and fuel production the Working Plans Officer has suggested a compromise in laying down that areas should be closed to the concessions for a certain number of years after working. But while this may be given a trial in the case of the timber working circles, which in any case are not so vulnerable as other areas in that they are more remote from centres of manure leaf consumption, the prescription will be ineffective if applied to the fuel forests which lie nearer the more thickly inhabited country and which must be worked on a short rotation. If the utility of the areas is to be maintained, and they are required for the production of wood both for local use and for the supply of Mangalore, they must be closed altogether in the exercise of the concessions. A decision must now be taken as to what purposes these forests are to serve; they cannot serve both." He therefore asked for permission to close each coupe to the concessions as it is worked over and thereafter to keep it closed permanently. The Government thereupon ordered that beginning from 1933 the concessions should be gradually withdrawn and that a beginning should be made with the six reserves where the concessions were much abused situated farthest from the sea and the six sandalwood reserves in the North Mangalore division and the Veeracamba reserve in the South Mangalore division, and that the people affected should be given intimation of the proposed withdrawal by beat of tom tom in the villages and by publication in the District Gazette. The Chief Conservator was also informed that any representations that might be received against the withdrawal of the concessions should be submitted to Government and that pending the issue of orders on the representations the orders of withdrawal should be deferred.

Para 5 pp. 48-49 (W)

G.O. at pp. 51 & 67 (W)

D.O. at p. 74-75 (W)

Paras 2 & 3 at pp. 25-26 (V)

9. Representations were received only in respect of the Todar reserve. The concessions were therefore withdrawn only from the remaining reserves from 1st April 1933. The representations regarding the Todar reserve were considered and orders were issued in June 1933, withdrawing the concessions from that reserve also.

pp. 58-59 (V)

Para 2 pp. 1-2 (J)

10. In July 1933 the Chief Conservator reported that the working plan of the North Mangalore and South Mangalore divisions prescribed the gradual withdrawal of the concessions according to the sylvicultural needs of the forests, that the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore division, was of opinion that the concessions should be withdrawn from all fuel coupes felled within the last six years and that the Collector of South Kanara and the Conservator supported the proposal. Orders were issued at the end of August 1933 that the areas in which the concessions were in force should be divided into two classes—areas where the concessions are abused and therefore their withdrawal is desirable and areas where sylvicultural interests necessitate the non-exercise of the concessions. In regard to the latter the concessions might be withdrawn in accordance with the working plans, a report being submitted to Government specifying the areas so closed, while in the case of the former, the concessions might be withdrawn after obtaining the previous sanction of Government in each case and after giving due warning to the people concerned.

* G.O. at pp. 10-11 (J)

Vide pp. in [illegible] (V) & (E)

pp. 19-25 (X)

11. As a result of the withdrawal of the concessions there were several interpellations in the Council and several representations were received by Government on the subject. The Honorary Secretary of the South Kanara Landholders' Association has submitted a long memorandum setting forth the grievances of the ryots and making certain requests. [redacted] Mr. Minchin, Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund Circle, and Mr. Gawne, the Collector of South Kanara, made a joint tour in the Coondapoor taluk of South Kanara district in January 1934 to hear complaints, if any, connected with the withdrawal of the concessions. Ample notice of the tour and the object of it was given to the ryots, and the President of the South Kanara Landholders' Association was specially informed by the Collector of the proposed tour. The Collector and the Conservator have sent reports on the result of their joint tour. It will be seen from them that no complaints about forest grievances were received in several places, that while the more influential ryots clamour for the free use of reserved forests they try to keep the poor ryots out of the unreserves to which they have a claim, and that the ryots do not go to the forest coupes for leaf manure though it is available there. The Collector and the Conservator admit that there must be some hard cases; but none were brought to their notice, even though they asked for them. They deprecate giving the population the uncontrolled use of entire reserves.

pp. 32-39 & 80.

134 to 136 (S)

A at p. 37

The Collector was of opinion that much of the agitation is inspired by those who are anxious to pose as leaders of the people, and that if it was made clear that the charges which would be levied in forest coupes were for the employment of the necessary watchmen, the imposition of a fee for removing green or dry leaf would not be construed as a hardship. The Chief Conservator observed that it was impossible to find cases of real hardship, that they exist mainly in the imagination of interested persons and that general complaints of this nature do not deserve serious attention. The Chief Conservator of Forests was asked whether, in places where it would cause hardship if green leaf is not allowed to be taken, a small fee might be charged for an area to be delimited by the department small enough to be controlled by the departmental staff. The Chief Conservator reported that the suggestion had already been given effect to as a trial in certain reserves of the North Mangalore division, where the District Forest Officer has made it a condition of the fuel contract that the contractors shall issue permits for removal of green leaf and dry leaf at nominal rates. This would obviate the need for the employment of the departmental staff. The Chief Conservator considered that the results of the experiment should be watched by the local officers for some time.

12. It has been urged by the M.L.Cs. representing South Kanara that the forest concessions are ancient rights to which by law the people of the district are entitled. The legal position of the rights and privileges of the ryots to forests or forest products in the district have been examined by the Working Plans officers in their reports. It will be seen therefrom that when the settlement operations were undertaken subsequent to the passing of the Forest Act in 1882, it was made clear that only a very small portion of the forest land of South Kanara had any legal claim to be considered as private forest while the bulk of the forest land was deemed the property of Government subject only to admitted rights of way and water and certain rights to pasture, forest produce etc. over portions adjoining private holdings. Accordingly the existing reserved forests were notified after preliminary notification. A few additions and reserves have been formed subsequently and all the forests are the absolute property of the State. Besides the rights allowed at the time of forest settlement, certain concessions were granted by the Chief Conservator of Forests in 1922 and it is these concessions that are being withdrawn on account of abuse.

13. So far only 17 reserves have been closed to the concessions. They are specified below :-

17

The following 30 reserves in the South Kanara district were closed to the forest concessic

(a) Six of the much abused reserves of the Coondapoor range of North Mangalore which are farthest from the sea—

(1) Guruvankota.
(2) Karnigadde.
(3) Kursegudde.
(4) Harkur.
(5) Chittur.
(6) Mudaregudde.
(7) Talaburane
(8) Jarvathukadu
(9) Marinkodlu

(b) Six sandalwood reserves in North Mangalore division—

(7) Hosabettu.
(8) Todar.
(9) Nire.
(10) Vorwadi.
(11) Mavinguli.
(12) Kassankatti.
(13) Veeracamba (in South Mangalore).

(c) Two reserves in South Mangalore
(16) Veeracamba
(17) Mandekole

As regards the future, the Government have issued orders to the effect that the Chief Conservator might close such of the reserves as he considers necessary for sylvicultural reasons, but that no more reserves should be closed to the concessions owing to abuse except with the prior sanction of the Government. The Chief Conservator since reported that since then one reserve in North Mangalore and 10 reserves in South Mangalore were abused but that as the Collector of South Kanara had warned the villagers against a recurrence they need not be closed.

14. It is submitted that in connection with complaints regarding the withdrawal of the concessio the following points may be noted :-

(1) It should not be difficult for the ryots to get their requirements elsewhere. The supply of green manure from reserve forests is not unlimited and a time will come when the forest cannot supply the demand. The ryots should be made not to depend on the reserves; but to grow their own green manure;

(2) the ryots do not go to the reserve forests for the leaves and shrubs of less valuable species as they can get these from the kumaki land elsewhere but they resort to reserved forests to get the leaves of valuable species such as *Terminalia tomentosa* and *Terminalia paniculata*;

(3) the reserves most concerned with the concessions are of value for the production of fuel and for the other normal functions of a reserve forest;

(4) unless the reserves are increased, it will not be possible to provide for the increasing requirements of the ryots in the matter of fuel, grazing, etc.;

(5) the concessions were allowed only on condition that the ryots came forward to form themselves into panchayats, and if they did not do so, they are themselves to blame;

(6) even now if the ryots form themselves into panchayats, it will be open to Government to withdraw the orders.

Experience has shown that the concessions made by the C.C.F. in 1922 were, to say the least of it, ill-advised. They were almost at once abused, & the withdrawals which have been found necessary have now been made into a standing "grievance." This relates chiefly to the supply of green leaves for manure.

However a personal tour by the Collector & the Conservator (Messrs. Gawne & Minchin) did not succeed in unearthing any case of "hardship"; on the contrary; though those officers were prepared to admit that there might be hard cases. And there are good reasons for supposing that most of the agitation on this subject has been quite artificial.

§11 at p. 1 above

I do not believe myself that the S. Kanara forests hold much in the way of game nowadays, destructive game at any rate. No solid facts or figures are adduced to prove this & the Collector has reported that the District is largely shot out.

Malaria in such foothills is an almost invariable feature, according to my Experience in the Circars. Forests have not necessarily much to do with it.

Ltt.

15. As regards the allegation that the village adjoining the reserves are being depopulated and the lands left waste it may be stated that the number of cattle killed by wild animals has been on the decrease since 1929-30. The Government offer and grant rewards for the destruction of certain wild animals and people are allowed to hunt certain species of wild beasts in reserved forests during January to July, subject to certain conditions.

The first Conference of the Landholders of South Kanara which met at Puttur in December 1932 passed a resolution viewing with grave concern the solicitude of Government to preserve wild life which is causing irreparable hardship, loss and misery to human life and crops in the South Kanara district. Reference is solicited to the proceedings of the inaugural meeting held in connection with the preservation of wild life in South India held on 1st November 1933. The objects of the association will be found on page 3 of the proceedings. It will be seen therefrom that there is nothing about which the ryots of South Kanara need be alarmed. The Collector of South Kanara reported that the arms licenses in the district were so numerous that the game had been largely shot out and that the ryots were not able to show crops damaged by wild animals though they were asked to do so.

16. The case may be sent to the P.S.G. wo

RS 26/9/35

For my remarks please see preceding page 14(a)

26/9

P.S.G.

Returned with thanks with an extract from his Excellency's reply to the South Kanara District Board's address.

P. S. G.
25/10/35.

To A.S.

No action is called for on the papers which may be recorded. The draft order submitted below is for approval.

25/10/35

D

Extract from His Excellency's reply to the South Kanara District Board's address.

Gentlemen, you have touched upon a great many points in the course of your address to me and I must needs be brief in my reply. I regret that you feel yourselves to be labouring under grievances in respect of the Reserved Forests, but must remind you that in 1922 you were granted concessions of an exceptional nature and it is only in so far as the conditions attaching to their grant have not been observed that those concessions have had to be withdrawn. An investigation conducted by officers of my Government only last year did not reveal any genuine cases of hardship.

Nor can I find substantiation for your statement as to the serious menance to crops constituted by the depredations of wild beasts. South Kanara has for long been generously treated in the issue of arms licences for crop protection, and my information is that very effectual use has been made of the arms covered by them.

16
/ 397

C.F. 16.

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL.

	Date.	Initials.
When received for fair copying ...		
When copied ..		
When examined..		
When signed ..		
When despatched.		

SUBJECT:—

Forwarding — South Kanara Dt. address to His Excellency the Governor in Council

READ AGAIN _____, dated _____ 19____

" " _____ " _____ 19____

READ *ALSO*:—

No. 4120 From the _____, No. _____, dated _____ 19____.

" _____ " _____ " _____ " _____ 19____.

" _____ " _____ " _____ " _____ 19____.

Order ~~Resolution~~ Ms. ~~Rent.~~ No. 1607, dated 30 10 1935

Received

RR 2/11

Desk

29.10.35

Sent

29.10.35